

REMARKS

Claims 23-25, 52, 65, 66, 76, 77, 101-103, 106, and 108 are now pending in the application. Claim 108 has been amended into independent form including the subject matter of claims 88 and 90. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 31, 90 and 108 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 31 and 90 are canceled, thus the objection is rendered moot. Applicants request withdrawal of the claim objection.

Claim 108 is objected to because it recited a "cover." Claim 108 has been amended to recite a protective cap, as requested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9, 11-12, 19-20, 59-63, 81-86, 91-92 and 104-105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Leibinger, Vilsmeier, and Allen. Claims 22, 49 and 64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of any one of Bramlet et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2001/0000186) and Levisman (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0028423) and Lazarof (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0042574). Claims 32-35, 40-42, 45-48 and 50-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier and further in view of Allen, and further in view of any one of Bramlet, Levisman, and Lazarof. Claims 68-70 and 98-100 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier and Allen, and further in view of Winters (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,706). Claims 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier, Allen and any one of Bramlet, Levisman, Lazarof as applied to Claim 32 above, and further in view of McCrory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,971). Claim 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier, Allen and any one of Bramlet, Levisman and Lazarof as applied to Claim 32 above, and further in view of Stednitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,098,435) and Ferrante et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,565,573). Claim 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibinger in view of Vilsmeier, Allen and any one of Bramlet, Levisman, Lazarof as applied to Claim 32 above, and further in view of Franck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,896). Claims 1, 5, 8-9, 12-16, 19-21, 59-61, 67 and 105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier. Claims 1, 5, 8-9, 13-14, 18-19 and 105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,491) in view of Vilsmeier. Claim 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin in view of Vilsmeier and further in view of Overaker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,241,732). Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin in view of Vilsmeier as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of either one Stednitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,098,435) and Ferrante et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,565,573). Claims 22, 64, 81-82 and 84-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Franklin in view of Vilsmeier and either one of Stednitz et al. and Ferrante et al., and further in view of any one of Bramlet, Levisman and Lazarof. Claims 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of Gordon (U.S. Patent No. 5,300,075). Claim 31 stand rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franklin in view of Vilsmeier as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Franck et al. Claims 36 and 88 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of Kraus, still further in view of either one of Stednitz et al. and Ferrante et al. Claim 90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of Kraus, still further in view of either one of Stednitz et al. and Ferrante et al., as applied to Claim 88 above, and further in view of Gordon. Claims 49, 64, 81-85, 94-97 and 107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of Kraus, still further in view of any one of Bramlet, Levisman and Lazarof. Claim 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. (a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier, Kraus and any one of Bramlet, Levisman and Lazarof as applied to Claim 81 above, and further in view of Overaker. Claims 53-57 and 76-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier, and further in view of Kraus, still further in view of Gordon. Claims 91-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Vilsmeier and Kraus, further in view of McCrory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,971).

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-16, 18-22, 26-43, 46-51, 53-64, 67-70, 81-86, 88, 90-100, 104, 105, and 107 have been canceled. Accordingly, all of these rejections are rendered

moot. Applicants request that these rejections be withdrawn. All of the claims remaining pending in the application are those that have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 23-25, 52, 65-66, 76-77, 101-103 and 106 are allowed.

Objected to Claim 108 is not rejected under any cited art. Claim 108 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 89 and 90 and to further overcome the objection of Claim 108. Accordingly, Applicants submit, Claim 108 is now in condition for allowance.

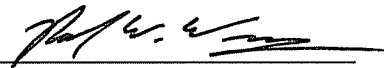
This amendment cancels all rejected claims and places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this amendment should be entered after the final office action and the subject application be passed to allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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